United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

January 16 - January 22, 1992

IN THIS ISSUE:

News Releases—

News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

USDA ANNOUNCES 1992 FARM PROGRAM COMMON PROVISIONS AND ELS COTTON PROVISIONS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today announced common provisions for the 1992 commodity programs for wheat, feed grains, upland cotton, soybeans and other oilseeds.

The provisions are:

—A 40 percent advance cash payment for the 1992-95 crops of wheat, feed grains and upland cotton; no advance deficiency payments for the 1992 crop of ELS cotton.

—The estimated deficiency and advance payment rates for the 1992 crops are:

	Estimated Deficiency Payment Rate (cents)	Advance Payment Rate (cents)
Wheat (bu)	65	26
Corn (bu)	48	19.2
Sorghum (bu)	46	18.4
Barley (bu)	35	14
Oats (bu)	15	6
Upland Cotton (lb)	15	6

The 0-50/92 provisions continue to be available at the discretion of producers. The above estimated deficiency payment rates are the minimum guaranteed payment rates for producers participating in the 0/92 (wheat and feed grains) and 50/92 (upland cotton) programs.

—As with the 1991 programs, 0/92 conserving use (CU) acreage may be planted, at the producer's discretion, to minor oilseeds (sunflower seed, safflower, flaxseed, canola, rapeseed and mustard seed).

If minor oilseeds are planted on this acreage, producers must choose whether to retain deficiency payment eligibility and waive price-support program eligibility or retain price support eligibility and waive deficiency payment eligibility. Sesame and crambe may be planted on 0/92 and

50/92 acreage for the 1992-1995 crops and producers will retain deficiency payment eligibility. Price support programs for sesame and crambe will not be offered.

—When minor oilseeds, sesame and crambe are planted on 0/92 acreage, such acreage may also be subsequently planted to the same crops which may be planted on so-called "flexible" acreage (excluding program crops) in the same crop year. If the subsequently-planted crop is soybeans, then an established history of doublecropping (for example, wheat followed by soybeans or feed grains followed by soybeans) during at least three of the past five years must exist on the farm. Producers must agree to forego price support program eligibility on the subsequently planted crop.

—Corn and sorghum permitted acreage will be combined. The planting mix between these crops is at the producer's discretion. Planting history for corn and sorghum will be prorated based on the current year crop acreage base (CAB) ratio. Program payments will be based on applicable payment acreage associated with each corn and sorghum CAB, not on current year plantings.

—Dry peas (limited to Austrian peas, wrinkled seed, green, yellow and umatilla) and lentils may be planted on acreage up to 20 percent of a wheat and feed grains CAB. Such acreage will be considered as planted to the program crop for planting history purposes.

—For skiprow cotton, calculation of acreage planted and the area skipped will allow for either 30-inch rows or, at the option of producers who had an established practice of using 32-inch rows before the 1991 crop, 32-inch rows. Also, single skiprows will qualify as CU acreage under the 0-50/92 provisions.

—Crops prohibited on the 1992 flexible acreage will be the same as those prohibited in 1991, except that mung beans will be allowed on flexible acreage.

—Soybean plantings on optional flexible acreage (OFA) of enrolled program crop acreage bases are permitted in 1992. The planting of soybeans on this acreage is prohibited by law if the national average soybean price during the 1992/93 marketing year is projected, as of January 1 to be less than 105 percent ($5.27 per bushel) of the soybean price support level ($5.02). Because the national average price for soybeans during the 1992/93 marketing year is projected to exceed 105 percent of the soybean price support level, soybean plantings are not prohibited on OFA.

—The planting of industrial and other crops on 0-50/92 CU acreage will not be permitted.

—Targeted option payments will not be made available to producers.

—Planting of designated crops on up to half of the announced acreage conservation reserve (ACR) will not be permitted.

—Planting of oats for harvest on ACR under the wheat and feed grain programs will not be permitted.

—Harvesting of conserving crops on ACR will not be permitted.

—Production of black-eyed peas for donation will not be allowed on cotton ACR and CU acreage.

—Malting barley will not be exempted from acreage reduction requirements for the 1992 crop of barley.

—Malting barley contract prices will continue to be included in estimates of the malting barley price used to calculate the malting barley assessment rate.

—The malting barley assessment will continue to be based on the state average price when available and, if not available, on the national average price.

—As announced earlier, program signup will be Feb. 10 through April 17. Additional information may be obtained at county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

#

USDA APPROVES NEW ANIMAL INSPECTION CENTER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced it is adding Santa Teresa, N.M., to the list of approved U.S.-Mexican border ports for the entry of cattle and other ruminants from Mexico.

"The Santa Teresa facility will replace the nearest border port entry station, which is now located 10 miles away at El Paso, Texas," said Lonnie J. King, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The new APHIS-supervised inspection and animal-holding station is owned by the same private interests as the El Paso facility. The owners of the El Paso facility have decided to close it for cattle inspection.

The Santa Teresa station is equipped with dipping and chute-inspection equipment necessary for the treatment of fever ticks. Ruminant animals exposed to cattle fever ticks can enter the United States only through the Santa Teresa facility or other facilities equipped with the proper equipment for treatment.

Over one million cattle are imported from Mexico annually, including 136,000 through the El Paso facility in 1990. Closure of the El Paso facility necessitated the addition of Santa Teresa as an approved inspection and quarantine facility.

An interim rule affirming the addition of Santa Teresa, N.M., to the list of approved Mexican border ports will be published in the Jan. 17 Federal Register. Written comments will be considered if they are received on or before March 17. An original and three copies referring to Docket 91-167 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be inspected as soon as received at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th Street and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Alan Zagier (301) 436-7799

#

GREAT PLAINS WIND EROSION DOWN FROM LAST YEAR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—Wind erosion was down significantly on Great Plains cropland and rangeland during November and December 1991 compared to the same period a year earlier, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service reported today.

SCS Chief William Richards said the agency's survey of wind erosion for the past season shows about 1.59 million acres of Great Plains cropland and rangeland were damaged—some 250,000 acres less than in 1990.

Richards said implementation of conservation plans under the Farm Bill provisions and the Great Plains Conservation Program, in addition to easing of drought in certain areas, have resulted in significantly fewer damaged acres throughout the 10-state Great Plains area.

Richards said the Great Plains wind erosion damage that occurred was due primarily to tillage, freezing and thawing, and in some areas

continuing drought—all resulting in insufficient cover and little residue. A warm fall, which allowed a long fall tillage period, was a contributing factor, he said.

Texas reported the greatest improvement with 253,000 acres damaged, down 327,000 acres from 1990. North Dakota, which set a state record for the third year in a row, reported the most damage—more than 692,000 acres, up 130,000 acres from 1990.

Of the total land damaged, about 93 percent was cropland. The rest was primarily rangeland.

SCS reports land damaged when small mounds or drifts of soil are observed, or blown soil covers vegetation. SCS conducts its survey during the wind erosion season in 541 counties in the Great Plains states. The wind erosion season extends from November through May.

Farmers in every Great Plains state used emergency tillage—roughly 310,000 acres received emergency tillage, compared with 656,000 acres in 1990. Texas reported more than 215,000 acres, about 70 percent of the total.

In addition, more than 14.7 million acres were reported in condition to blow. This total is down from the previous three years and can be attributed primarily to an easing of the drought in some areas. About 4.9 million acres were reported in condition to blow in North Dakota.

Below is a state-by-state summary of wind erosion damage between Nov. 1 and Dec. 31, 1991, compared to damage during the same period in 1990.

Wind Erosion Damage, November-December 1991 and 1990

	Counties	-----Acres Damaged-----	
	Reporting	Nov.-Dec. 1991	Nov.-Dec. 1990
Colorado	37	15,850	108,990
Kansas	105	86,050	38,120
Montana	40	342,460	365,021
Nebraska	21	15,580	20,800
New Mexico	19	1,550	13,450
North Dakota	53	692,420	562,782

Oklahoma	30	19,020	31,090
South Dakota	66	106,060	38,370
Texas	147	253,208	580,619
Wyoming	23	56,003	85,195
TOTALS	541	1,588,201	1,844,437

Ted Kupelian (202) 720-5776

#

USDA SHIFTS FUNDS TO APHIS FOR FRUIT FLY PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced an emergency in California and authorized the transfer of $9.5 million in USDA funds to help eradicate infestations of Mediterranean, Mexican and Oriental fruit flies in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

In California, Vice President Dan Quayle said, "California produces more than one-half of the nation's fruit and one-third of its vegetables. Secretary Madigan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture are committed to ensuring California remains free of exotic fruit flies that could damage its productive agricultural base."

Since last September, 26 Mediterranean and 14 Mexican fruit flies have been detected in Los Angeles County, and 76 Oriental fruit flies have been found in areas encompassing parts of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Quarantines have been placed on all three infestations.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in a program to eradicate these fruit-fly infestations.

An emergency declaration allows funds to be transferred to APHIS from the Commodity Credit Corporation. This will let APHIS share program costs about equally with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in conducting fruit-fly eradication projects in California.

The Mediterranean, Mexican and Oriental fruit flies are among the world's most destructive pests, affecting more than 200 species of fruits, nuts and vegetables, including citrus, avocado, peaches, apples and

plums. These pests can develop rapidly and spread easily, causing severe damage to citrus and other fruits and vegetables.

It is estimated that if the Medfly alone became established in California, damaged produce could cost U.S. growers more than $1 billion annually, and severely disrupt the $12.3 billion fruit and vegetable industry.

The declaration of emergency is scheduled for publication in the Jan. 21 Federal Register.

Doug Hendrix (301) 436-7799
Larry Hawkins (714) 276-6646
Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

#

USDA WILL AID TREE FARMERS HIT BY DROUGHT, FREEZE, EARTHQUAKE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the implementation of the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) to assist tree growers whose trees were lost due to disasters.

Under this program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation will reimburse eligible small- and medium-scale commercial tree growers for a portion of losses caused by natural disasters occurring in 1990 and 1991.

''By implementing the Tree Assistance Program we will provide much needed relief to growers in those parts of the country who have suffered severe losses to orchards and tree stands because of drought, freeze or earthquake,'' Madigan said.

The program is authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill and the Dire Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1992.

Madigan said cost-share payments will be made to growers to replant or rehabilitate orchard trees which were planted in any year to produce annual crops for commercial purposes but were lost in calendar year 1990 or 1991.

Cost-share payments will also be made to replant or rehabilitate timber and Christmas trees which were planted for harvest during 1989 or 1990 and lost due to drought or earthquake in 1990, or planted during 1990 or 1991 and lost due to drought or earthquake in 1991.

To qualify, the grower's loss on an individual stand of trees must have been greater than 35 percent, after adjustment for normal mortality. Reimbursement will be made for 65 percent of the cost of replanting that portion of the trees lost in excess of 35 percent. Payments may be reduced further because total funding for the program is limited.

CCC will administer the program through county offices of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service with assistance from other USDA agencies. Tree growers requesting assistance under TAP should inquire about eligibility and other program provisions at ASCS county offices. The TAP signup is from Feb. 3 to March 13.

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789

#

USDA REQUESTS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PEANUT POUNDAGE QUOTA, PRICE SUPPORT REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today requested public comment on five issues relating to peanut poundage quota and price support regulations.

Comments are sought on:

—The definition of "actual undermarketings" of peanuts for the 1992 through 1995 crops of peanuts.

—The method by which a farm's poundage quota will be reduced for any of the 1992 through 1995 crops when the farm's basic peanut quota has not been produced or considered produced in two of the three years preceding the then current year.

—The treatment of peanut products made from additional peanuts exported to Canada or Mexico.

—Conditions under which additional peanuts may be pledged as collateral for a price support loan and purchased by a handler under the immediate buyback provisions of the peanut price support regulations.

—Conditions by which an extension of time for exporting or crushing contract additional peanuts may be granted to a handler.

Further details appear in today's Federal Register.

Written comments should be submitted by Feb. 6 to: Director, Tobacco and Peanuts Division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C.

20013. The comments will be available for public inspection during business hours in room 5750-S of USDA's South Building.

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789

#

USDA TO INCREASE DAIRY PRODUCT GRADING AND INSPECTION FEES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will increase certain fees for its "voluntary" (i.e., industry solicited) grading and inspection services funded by the dairy industry effective Jan. 26.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the increases reflect costs of keeping the program solvent.

The fee increases are:

—From $41 per hour to $44.60 per hour for intermittent grading and inspection services, with additional travel and per diem costs continuing to be charged; and

—From $36.00 per hour to $39.60 per hour for "continuous" resident grading and inspection, i.e., for a grader-inspector assigned to a plant permanently.

The dairy grading program, like other voluntary commodity grading programs, is user-fee funded and must balance its fee income against its costs, Haley said.

The fee increases will be published as a final rule in the Jan. 21 Federal Register. Copies may be obtained from the Dairy Grading Section, Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2750, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, telephone (202) 720-3171.

Rebecca Unkenholz (202) 720-8998

#

U.S. TOBACCO INDUSTRY TO BUY 445.5 MILLION POUNDS OF 1992 BURLEY TOBACCO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17—U.S. cigarette manufacturers plan to purchase 445.5 million pounds (farm sales weight) of 1992-crop burley tobacco, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 require major domestic cigarette manufacturers to report annually to USDA their intended purchases of burley tobacco from U.S. auction markets and producers.

Data on intended purchases are used, in part, to determine USDA's annual burley tobacco marketing quota. The other two factors determining the quota are average annual burley exports for the preceding three years and the amount of tobacco needed to attain the reserve stock level. The 1992 quota will be announced by Feb. 1.

Bjerke said annual burley exports for 1989, 1990 and 1991 averaged 187.6 million pounds, up 20 million pounds from the 1988-90 average.

In 1991, manufacturers' intended purchases totaled 510.5 million pounds.

John Carlin Ryan (202) 720-8297

#

USDA REVISES P.L. 480 ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL 1992

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today issued revised country-commodity allocations for the second quarter of fiscal 1992 under the Food for Peace (Title I of Public Law 480) and Food for Progress Programs.

Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, said that of the $511.6 million available for Title I and Food for Progress commodity purchases, $73.1 million remains unallocated as a reserve.

Goldthwait also said that El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Morocco, and Tunisia signed P.L.480 agreements with the United States in the last quarter of 1991.

Because situations develop that can cause a change in country and commodity allocations during a fiscal year, these allocations do not

represent final U.S. commitments with participating governments.

Title I of P.L. 480 is a concessional sales program to promote exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster broad-based sustainable development in recipient countries. The program provides export financing over payment periods of up to 30 years, grace periods of up to seven years, and low interest rates.

Countries eligible for the Title I program are developing countries experiencing a shortage of foreign exchange earnings and having difficulty meeting all of their food needs through commercial channels.

Under the Food for Progress Program, commodities are provided to developing countries and emerging democracies that have made commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise in their economies. New agreements have been signed with Albania and Panama. Resources for this program can be provided using the authority of P.L. 480, Section 416(B) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, and the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act.

The priorities for country allocations are based on several factors including need for food, undertaking of economic and agricultural measures to improve food security, and potential for becoming a U.S. commercial market. The allocations take into account changing economic and foreign policy situations, market development opportunities, existence of adequate storage facilities and possible disincentives to local production.

Additional information is available from Mary Chambliss, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, at (202) 720-3573.

Table on next page

TABLE 1: Country and Commodity Allocations
Public Law 480
Title I
Second Quarter, Fiscal 1992

	Total Allocation	Undesig-nated	Wheat/ Flour a/	Rice	Feed Grains
	($ Mil)	($ Mil)	-----1,000 Metric Tons -----		
Congo	5.0	0	—	17	—
Costa Rica	10.0	0	80	—	—
Cote d'Ivoire	10.0	0	—	34	—
Dominican Republic	10.0	0	37	—	—
Egypt	150.0	0	986	—	—
El Salvador	30.0	0	152	—	27
Guatemala	15.0	0	120	—	—
Guyana	5.0	0	42	—	—
Jamaica	30.0	0	86	31	81
Jordan	20.0	0	134	—	—
Morocco	35.0	0	48	—	—
Pakistan	20.0	0	—	—	—
Philippines	20.0	0	—	—	—
Poland	10.0	0	—	—	—
Sierra Leone	7.0 b/	0	8	15	—
Sri Lanka	5.0	0	37	—	—
Tunisia	10.0	0	81	—	—
Yemen	10.0	0	—	—	91
Totals	402.0	0	1,811	97	199

Table 1, cont'd

	Vegoil	Oilseed Meals	Tallow	Cotton
	----1,000 Metric Tons or 1000 Bales----			
Congo	—	—	—	—
Costa Rica	—	—	—	—
Cote d'Ivoire	—	—	—	—
Dominican Republic	7	—	—	—
Egypt	—	—	—	—
El Salvador	—	—	28	—
Guatemala	—	—	—	—
Guyana	—	—	—	—
Jamaica	—	—	—	—
Jordan	—	—	—	—
Morocco	60	—	—	—
Pakistan	30	—	—	—
Philippines	—	87	—	—
Poland	—	—	—	27
Sierra Leone	—	—	—	—
Sri Lanka	—	—	—	—
Tunisia	—	—	—	—
Yemen	—	—	—	—
Totals	97	87	28	27

TABLE 2: Country and Commodity Allocations
Public Law 480
Food for Progress Program
Second Quarter, Fiscal 1992

	Total Allocation	Undesig-nated	Wheat/ Flour a/	Rice
	($ Mil)	($ Mil)	-1,000 Metric Tons-	
Albania	7.5 c/	0	40	—
Panama	4.0 c/	0	—	—
Nicaragua	25.0 c/	0	45	—
Totals	36.5	0	85	0

	Feed Grains	Vegoil	Meal	Tallow
	-----1,000 Metric Tons-----			
Albania	—	—	—	—
Panama	—	7	—	—
Nicaragua	—	13	9	19
Totals	0	20	9	19

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.
a/ Wheat Flour included as grain equivalent.
b/ Total includes $2 million for financing transportation costs.
c/ Total includes transportation costs as follows: Albania, $2.3 million; Panama, $800,000; and Nicaragua, $4.9 million.

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-0328

#

U.S. FARM EXPERTS TO DEVELOP MODEL FARM NEAR ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today dispatched a team of American farm experts to Russia to explore opportunities for developing a model farm near St. Petersburg.

"American farmers lead the world in efficient food and fiber production," Madigan said. "If achieved, this demonstration farm could demonstrate our farming expertise to Russian farmers. If we are successful, this effort can be of great value to the Russian people as they progress toward a market-based economy."

The team is headed by Keith Bjerke, administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Other members are: Mitch Geasler, associate administrator of USDA's Extension Service; David Eckholm, a specialist in dairy business development with Land O'Lakes Co., Arden Hills, Minn.; Ed Jesse, agriculture policy and diary market specialist from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; Charles "Pete" Knigge, a dairy farmer from Omro, Wis.; Gerald Miller, assistant director of the Minnesota Extension Service, St. Paul, Minn.; and Richard Rankin, deputy administrator for management, USDA's Extension Service.

Team members will meet with Russian officials and farmers to determine project specifics, including commodities and livestock to be produced and processed, marketing opportunities, farm location, and land, building and equipment requirements.

Madigan said the team would work closely with Russian officials to assess the ability of privatized farms in the St. Petersburg area to adopt technology and systems used on the model farm.

"We envision a program—built around a model farm—that will help individual farmers learn how to develop and manage their own farm, produce their own crops and then get them to market in the St. Petersburg area," Madigan said. "We would also emphasize the use of available technology to ensure our methods and machines could easily be available and employed."

The demonstration concept farm was first proposed by Madigan to Russian officials during a U.S. fact-finding mission to the former Soviet Union in October 1991, which Madigan led at the direction of President Bush.

The U.S. team will be in St. Petersburg through Jan. 28, travel by train to Moscow on Jan. 29, and depart for the United States on Feb. 1. Soon after its return, the team will present its findings and recommendations to Madigan.

Madigan said the United States is also assisting Armenia in modernizing its farming systems. A team of USDA Extension Service farm experts is now in Armenia meeting with government and private farm representatives to develop specific assistance projects.

These projects will likely focus on farm management, technological development, financial planning, and marketing. The team will depart Armenia Jan. 23. Project implementation is expected to begin in the spring or summer.

Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

#

USDA EXTENDS FILING PERIOD ON PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES TO MILK ORDER BASE PRICE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is extending the deadline to March 2 for submission of proposals on alternatives to the MinnesotaWisconsin (M-W) price currently used to set minimum prices in all federal milk marketing orders.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the extension is in response to an industry group request for more time to submit its proposed alternative to the M-W price.

The M-W price is the average of prices paid to farmers in the Minnesota-Wisconsin area for manufacturing grade (Grade B) milk, or, milk eligible for use only in manufactured milk products.

In effect since the early 1960'S, the M-W price has been widely accepted in the dairy industry as a good measure of changes in the supply and demand for milk nationally, Haley said.

A continuing decline in Grade B milk production, in part the result of more stringent sanitary requirements on dairy farms, is gradually making the M-W price unusable in formulating milk prices.

"Eventually, there will not be enough of that kind of milk sold to make a reliable base price," Haley said. "USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, which compiles the M-W price, questions whether it will be able to provide that price past 1992 or early 1993."

"The proposals, to be discussed at a national hearing later this year, should come directly from the dairy industry and the public," Haley said.

Proposals should be mailed by March 2 to the Dairy Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 720-8998

#

MARKET POTENTIAL WIDENS FOR FLORIDA-GROWN LIMES FREE OF FRUIT FLY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—Tahiti limes have been found to be free of the Caribbean fruit fly in U.S. Department of Agriculture and University of Florida tests, expanding domestic and export market potential for this juicy, seedless Florida fruit.

"Right now this variety of limes can't be exported to Japan because it was reputed to be naturally infested with the Caribbean fruit fly," said Michael K. Hennessey, a entomologist at the Agricultural Research Service's Subtropical Horticultural Research Laboratory in Miami. California and some other states also have banned Tahiti limes because of the fly.

Hennessey said tests for the presence of the pest have been run for over a year. "We started this research at the request of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences."

"We didn't find a single fruit fly," Hennessey said. "This evidence suggests that any quarantine restrictions based on the natural host status of fresh commercial Tahiti limes could be lifted."

Richard M. Baranowski, IFAS entomologist, worked with Hennessey in collecting over 102,000 Tahiti limes from 184 groves in Florida on 60 different harvest dates from May 1990 to May 1991.

"We selected samples from unwashed, unsorted and ungraded fruit. Some limes were damaged and rotted. We held the samples over sand in field tests for over 30 days to collect any larvae or pupae of the Caribbean fruit fly that might be present," Baranowski said.

A standard way of conducting tests for any larvae is to hold the fruit over sand. When larvae drops down, they burrow into the sand and then develop into flies.

The entomologists inspected not only the fruit flesh, but also the peel and albedo—the cottony substance between the flesh and peel. But all the

limes, including rotten ones, were fly-free, Baranowski said.

U.S. consumers have a taste for limes as evidenced by about 54,000 metric tons imported in 1990, primarily from Mexico, at a value of over $9 million.

According to Gail Walsh, secretary of Florida's Lime Administrative Committee, Tahiti limes—also called Persian limes—are available year-round, but peak in June, July and August. About 7,000 acres of trees in Florida's Dade and Lee Counties produced more than 1.5 million bushels of the fruit in the 1991 growing season.

"When you eat Key lime pie, chances are you're eating pie made with Tahiti limes. That's the case even here in Florida," Walsh said. Key limes are smaller, yellow and have seeds, unlike the seedless, grass-green Tahiti that is about 2 inches in diameter.

An average Florida lime, she said, will yield about 2 tablespoons of juice and 2 teaspoons of grated peel.

High in vitamin C, a cup of raw lime juice has only 65 calories and more vitamin A than 10 grapes. Limes also contain calcium, phosphorus and potassium.

In addition to being nutritious, limes add color and zest to beverages, main dishes and desserts, including:

* hot tea with lime
* limeade, lime soda or lime shake
* zesty butter and lime to top pancakes, waffles, toast or muffins
* marinade for chicken
* a vegetable sprinkle as a no-sodium lift for carrots, potatoes or cauliflower
* garnish for seafood to enhance flavor
* fluffy lime cream on crepes, French toast or cream puffs
* lime sorbet, meringue pie, and cheesecake

Doris Stanley (301) 504-8767

#

VETERINARIAN IS USDA AGENCY'S "DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST" FOR 1991

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—John R. Gorham, a U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarian in Pullman, Wash., will be honored Jan. 29 as "Distinguished Scientist of the Year" for 1991 by USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The award is the research agency's highest scientific honor.

"Dr. Gorham has advanced our basic understanding of many viral and genetic diseases of animals and humans," said ARS administrator R. Dean Plowman. "His innovative research has helped fight important diseases that weaken or kill cattle, sheep, goats, horses, swine, and mink."

Gorham, seven other ARS senior researchers, and eight "early career" research scientists will be honored at a 1:30 p.m. ceremony in USDA's Administration Building here. Plowman said the early career awards are given to recognize outstanding scientists who have been with ARS for seven years or less and have earned their highest degrees in the last 10 years.

Gorham, a USDA researcher since 1946, has been research leader at the ARS Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman since 1948. As Distinguished Scientist, he will receive a $7,000 cash award, a plaque and $40,000 in additional funds for his research.

Gorham has led research that uncovered the causes and prevention of many animal diseases including Aleutian Disease in farm-raised mink. He and co-workers determined that a rare genetic disorder, Chediak-Higashi Syndrome—previously reported only in humans—also affected cattle and mink. Their findings provided a means to study the syndrome in humans, Plowman said.

Gorham also identified vitamin E deficiency as the cause of a malady of mink and pigs. Since cats were later found to suffer from the ailment, all commercially prepared cat food today contains stabilized vitamin E.

His best known work was the co-discovery of the microorganism responsible for "salmon poisoning" in dogs and foxes. Known to Pacific West Indians for centuries, the disease was noted in the journals of Lewis and Clark during their western expeditions.

Gorham has authored or co-authored more than 570 academic publications. He holds a D.V.M. and master's degree in pathology from Washington State University and a doctorate in virology from the

University of Wisconsin. He is an adjunct professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology at Washington State University.

Being honored with Gorham are three "Outstanding Senior Scientists," who will each receive $5,000 cash awards and $25,000 in research support:

—Orville A. Levander, research chemist, ARS Vitamin and Mineral Nutrition Laboratory, Beltsville, Md., is an authority on the role of selenium and vitamin E in human health.

—Timothy L. Mounts, research leader, ARS Vegetable Oil Research Unit, Peoria, Ill., devised better ways to process and preserve vegetable oils.

—Richard S. Patterson, research leader, ARS Imported Fire Ant and Household Insects Research Unit, Gainesville, Fla., developed safe, effective alternatives to control household insects like cockroaches, fleas, flies, and ants.

Four "Area Senior Scientists" will each receive $3,000 cash awards and $15,000 in research support:

—Larry Cundiff, animal geneticist, Clay Center, Neb.

—David L. Grunes, soil scientist, Ithaca, N.Y.

—Thomas E. Rinderer, geneticist, Baton Rouge, La.

—Jimmy R. Williams, research hydraulic engineer, Temple, Texas.

Named as "Outstanding Early Career Scientist" is Peter E. A. Teal, research physiologist at the ARS Insect Attractants, Behavior and Basic Biology Research Laboratory in Gainesville, Fla. He uncovered new information on using insect sex attractants, called pheromones, to control crop pests such as corn earworms and tomato fruitworms. Teal will receive a $4,000 cash award and $25,000 in research support.

Seven "Early Career Area Scientists" will each receive $2,500 cash awards and $10,000 in research support:

—Gary Banuelos, plant/soil scientist, Fresno, Calif.

—David E. Brauer, plant physiologist, Philadelphia, Pa.

—Steven J. Crafts-Brandner, plant physiologist, Lexington, Ky.

—Jesse Paul Goff, veterinarian, Ames, Iowa.

—Roger B. Harvey, veterinary medical officer, College Station, Texas.

—Christina W. Vertucci, plant physiologist, Fort Collins, Colo.

—Dante S. Zarlenga, molecular biologist, Beltsville, Md.

Julie Corliss (510) 559-6069

#

USDA TO REVIEW U.S. STANDARDS FOR RICE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service is inviting comments and suggested changes to the U.S. standards for rice under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

According to FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz, the agency is evaluating the standards in accordance with requirements for periodic review of existing regulations.

FGIS will assess various sections of the standards, the potential for improvements, and language clarity. FGIS will also review the need to establish standards for edible brown rice; establish a special grade for aromatic rice; increase limits for broken kernels in some classes; eliminate the class screenings for milled rice; revise the definitions of long grain, medium grain, short grain, and mixed rough rice; and amend the definitions of the classes second head, screenings, and brewers milled rice.

Notice of the review and the request for comments appears today in the Federal Register. Comments must be submitted to George Wollam, FGIS, Room 0619 South Building, P.O. Box 96454, Washington, D.C. 20090-6454 on or before April 18.

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091

#

USDA MANDATES AFLATOXIN TESTING OF EXPORT CORN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22—Starting Feb. 21, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service will require that all corn exported from the United States be tested for aflatoxin prior to shipment, unless the purchasing contract stipulates that testing is not necessary.

At the same time, FGIS will begin providing aflatoxin testing services for all grains, including corn.

These actions, said FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz, are necessary to implement 1990 Farm Bill requirements.

The final rule implementing these changes to regulations under the U.S. Grain Standards Act was published today in the Federal Register.

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091

#